

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year

1962

together with the

REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor T.R. Mott, C.C.

Members:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Clarke

Councillor J. Dalley

Councillor Miss H.B. English

Councillor Miss A.K. Gaze

Councillor J. Howe

Councillor Mrs. J.R. Last

Councillor S.J. Soar

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Stock

Councillor S.E. Smith, J.P. (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. STEDMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistants:

R.G. CHAPMAN (Senior) to 5th November 1962.

MRS. F.A. ROWLEY (Secretary-Shorthand/Typist) from 5th November 1962.

M.G. BLIZZARD (Junior) from March 1961 to April 1962.

MRS. B.E. FRANKLIN (Part-time Shorthand/Typist) from April 1962.

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

October, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Once again I have pleasure in presenting to you my annual report. The year 1962 showed no unusual trend in the pattern of vital statistics, and there were no epidemics.

The Registrar General's figures show a modest increase in the population from 9,490 to 9,650. The corrected birth rate of 18.6 per 1,000 population is slightly higher than the figure for England and Wales of 18.0. The general death rate of 11.5 per 1,000 population is a little lower than that of England and Wales at 11.9.

There were only 2 infant deaths and the infantile mortality rate of 12.1 per 1,000 live births is down on the previous year when it was 19.0. The corresponding rate for England and Wales is 21.4. It must be remembered that in Witham we are dealing with comparatively small figures so a swing up or down is not unusual.

Both the infant deaths were due to congenital abnormalities.

There were no maternal deaths.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Only 48 cases were notified during 1962 compared with 157 in 1961. Of these, 29 were measles, 14 scarlet fever and 4 pulmonary tuberculosis.

Once again we can show nil returns for diphtheria, dysentery and poliomyelitis and for the first time for whooping cough. We have not had a case of diphtheria in Witham since 1943 or of poliomyelitis since 1958. The control of diphtheria is of course one of the big success stories of preventive medicine and it seems that it is being matched by the control of poliomyelitis. This happy state of affairs has not come about by chance, but by the steady unspectacular work of general practitioners and doctors of the Public Health Service at the immunisation clinics.

This work would have been impossible without the co-operation of parents and I must ask for their continual help. Poliomyelitis and diphtheria are not diseases of a bygone age, they could start up again if we neglect to have our children protected by immunisation.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

Immunisation sessions were held as in previous years at the Essex County Council Clinic and at the surgeries of the General Practitioners.

An innovation at the Essex County Council Clinic was the use of the triple vaccine which protects against tetanus as well as whooping cough and diphtheria. Some practitioners have been using this vaccine for a number of years.

For poliomyelitis the oral or Sabine vaccine is now used instead of the Salk vaccine which was given by injection. The change over is particularly popular with the children who find it a lot better to eat a lump of sugar than to have a prick!

Statistics in connection with immunisation will be found later in this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE.

You will find full details of work done in connection with housing, sewage and water supplies in the latter part of this report compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector.

You will note that 55 houses were completed including 3 under the Council's "Houses for Sale" scheme. All the others were by private enterprise. There is still a need for old persons bungalows.

The overloading of the three sewage works was again apparent but it is satisfactory to know that reasonably good effluents were produced, thanks to the efficient working of the effluent polishing lagoon constructed in 1961 and 1962. This of course is only a temporary measure.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to move anyone under the provision of this Act.

I am happy to record my thanks to the Chairman and members of the Public Health Committee for their help and support at all times.

I am grateful too for ready assistance from other Officers of the Council, and especially for the sterling work of the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C.R.C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham.

October, 1963.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting in conjunction with the report of the Medical Officer of Health my report of the work of the Public Health Inspectors for the year 1962.

The routine duties were carried on as usual, and a good deal of time was spent in connection with the imminent construction of the Witham By-pass which traverses the sewage works land. It was necessary to establish a temporary refuse tip, and to advise on drainage and water supply problems of some premises along its route.

Periodic inspections were made of food premises and the standard of food hygiene was generally satisfactory. Nevertheless it was necessary to take three cases to court for breach of regulations. All were convicted.

Work on the clearance of unfit properties gathered impetus during the closing months of the year, although this will not be reflected in the statistics for the period covered by this report. The improvement of dwellings by means of grant aid did not reach the peak of 1961, but the effective repair of dwellings outside of improvement grant schemes continued at a steady rate.

Public water supply was adequate for demands and was of a high standard of purity. Negotiations for the amalgamation of the district water undertaking with one of the long established neighbouring water companies were continued. The overloading on two of the three district sewage works has increased, yet effluents were satisfactory mainly due at Witham to the success of the effluent polishing lagoon, but otherwise due to good work by the Sewage Works Manager and his staff.

Daily atmospheric pollution recording was continued as it has been since 1957. Although results are similar to previous years and show a very moderate degree of air pollution, large scale development might alter the picture and might make it advisable to declare new housing estates as smoke control areas.

In conclusion, I would like to record my thanks to the Clerk, the Engineer and Surveyor and other officers of the Council for their continued help and co-operation, and to my own staff for their loyalty and hard work during the year.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for the support and encouragement they have accorded me.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

| | |
|--|----------|
| Area (in acres) | 7,329 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate) | 9,650 |
| Number of inhabited houses | 3,148 |
| Rateable Value | £135,698 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | £529 |

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 161 | 81 | 80 |
| Illegitimate | 4 | 1 | 3 |

Total live births - 165

| | |
|--|------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population | 17.1 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ... | 2.4 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.09 ... | 18.6 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population ... | 18.0 |

STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | - | 2 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | - | 1 |

| | |
|--|------|
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | 17.9 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales | 18.1 |
| Total live and still births - 168 | |

INFANT DEATHS

| Deaths of infants under 1 year - | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|----------------------------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Total infant deaths - 2

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

| | |
|--|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | 12.1 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births... | 12.4 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | Nil |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | 6.1 |
| Early neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | Nil |
| Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | 17.9 |
| Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births | 21.4 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion).

| | | | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

DEATHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| | 111 | 65 | 46 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | ... | 11.5 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.07 | .. | ... | ... | 12.3 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 11.9 |

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES, 1962.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

| Cause of Death | | | | | | | | Male | Female |
|----------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|------|--------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - | |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | - | |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 3 | |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 | |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 6 | |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 2 | |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 | 8 | |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 | 5 | |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 | |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 7 | |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - | |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 2 | |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 2 | |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 | |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - | |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 | |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - | |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 31. | Congenital Malformations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - | |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases. | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 | 5 | |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 | |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - | - | |
| All Causes | | | | | | | | 65 | 46 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

(a) Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following centres during the year:-

| <u>WITHAM</u> Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street. | | | <u>Attendances</u> |
|--|--|----------------------|--------------------|
| Child Welfare | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2 p.m. | 1,192 |
| School Clinic | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 9 a.m. | 143 |
| Dental | 2nd, 4th & 5th Thursdays and every Friday | 10 a.m. (By Appt) | 1,134 |
| Speech Therapy | Every Friday | 10 a.m. | 271 |
| <u>SILVER END</u> Garden Village Hall. | | | |
| Child Welfare | 1st Friday | 2 p.m. | 204 |
| <u>RIVENHALL</u> Church Hall. | | | |
| Child Welfare | 3rd Monday | 2 p.m. | 213 |

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Grays Inn Road, London W.C.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

(b) Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics These were held every 4th Tuesday afternoon at the Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street, Witham, but ceased on 18th December, 1962. Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are now referred to Black Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morning.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE

| DISEASE | TOTAL NOTIFIED | ADMITTED TO HOSPITAL | TOTAL DEATHS |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | 1 | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - |
| Measles | 29 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 14 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 4 | 1 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | - |
| Totals | 48 | 1 | - |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

| DISEASE | Total Notified | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 29 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 | 16 | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 14 | 4 | 1 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 5 | 2 |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 4 | 1 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 48 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | - | 11 | 16 | - | - | 6 | 4 |

TUBERCULOSIS.

The following Table gives particulars of the 4 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

| | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|--------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 -14 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 -19 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 -34 years | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 -44 years | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 -64 years | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 3 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Of these, one case was re-notified on taking up residence in this district.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

| <u>Primary Courses</u> | <u>By General Practitioners</u> | <u>By County Staff</u> | <u>Totals</u> |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | 91 | 1 | 92 |
| Diphtheria & Tetanus | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria | 23 | 14 | 37 |
| Pertussis | 24 | 4 | 28 |
| Tetanus | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Poliomyelitis | 83 | 305 | 388 |
| Snallpox | 774 | - | 774 |
| <u>Re-inforcing Doses</u> | | | |
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria & Tetanus | 4 | 10 | 14 |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 37 | 42 |
| Pertussis | - | - | - |
| Tetanus | - | - | - |
| Poliomyelitis | 35 | 807 | 842 |
| Snallpox | 269 | 8 | 277 |

HOUSING.

Construction of dwellings during 1962 was largely concentrated in two parts of the town, the remainder being on small sites, creating in-fill of vacant plots in built-up areas.

The major site for house building was at Moat Farm, where private development has been in progress since 1959, and the other site of noteable activity was at Howbridge Road where the Council sponsored "Houses for Sale" scheme was commenced.

The decision of the Minister of Housing to permit house building on part of the Little Elms Farm land provided the means for expanding residential development, and at the end of the year provision of main services was imminent. The other site of impending development was at Boars Tye Road, Silver End.

Of the 55 dwellings completed, 7 were privately built aged persons' bungalows, 3 were at the "Houses for Sale" site, and the remainder were built privately.

The number of houses erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| By Local Authority: | 720 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows) |
| By Private Enterprise: | 359 |

The number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1962 was 171 compared with 165 at the end of 1961. The waiting list is composed of the following categories:-

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Ordinary list | 102 |
| Aged persons | 42 |
| Single persons | 5 |
| Supplementary list | 1 |
| Exchange list | 3 |
| Engaged Couples list | 17 |
| Industrial Workers list | <u>1</u> |
| | <u>171</u> |

WITHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

Councillor T.R. Mott, C.C.

Members:

Councillor R.C. Bartlett

Councillor Mrs. E.M. Clarke

Councillor J. Dalley

Councillor Miss A.K. Gaze

Councillor J. Howe

Councillor Mrs. J.R. Last

Councillor W.A. Marsh

Councillor W.J. Pennell

Councillor S.J. Soar

Councillor Mrs. H.M. Stock

Councillor S.E. Smith, J.P. (ex-officio)

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

C.R.C. RAINSFORD, M.D., D.P.H., D.T.M.

Chief Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

E.H.C. WADHAMS, F.R.S.H., F.A.P.H.I., A.M.I.P.H.E.

Deputy Public Health Inspector and
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods:

D. STEDMAN, M.A.P.H.I.

Clerical Assistants:

MRS. F.A. ROWLEY (Secretary-Shorthand/Typist)
MRS. B.E. FRANKLIN (Part-time Shorthand/Typist)

Public Health Offices,
Town Hall,
Braintree.

November, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of
Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting the annual report on the health, vital statistics and sanitary circumstances of the Witham Urban District for the year 1963.

The report is as comprehensive as possible and is not confined to an account of the work done by your own Public Health Department and under your direct control, but includes facts and figures of the personal health services, i.e. clinics, home help service etc. which are under the control of the Essex County Council. For these I am indebted to the Area Medical Officer.

The pattern of vital statistics shows little change from previous years. The Registrar General's estimated population is 9,860, a small increase (210) over the previous year. Birth rates and death rates show only marginal changes from 1962 and are close to the over-all statistics for England and Wales.

There were 4 infant deaths, 1 from prematurity, 1 from septicaemia and 2 others from complications of congenital defects.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Cases notified during the year were 183 compared with 48 in 1962. The big increase was almost entirely due to measles which accounted for 156 compared with 29 in 1962. Measles usually reaches epidemic proportions amongst the children every 2 years as is borne out by our 1961 figures when there were 141 cases. Perhaps before long we will have a satisfactory vaccine to protect against measles.

Twelve cases of infective hepatitis were notified and there were probably a good many more. The disease is commonly known as jaundice but some of the milder cases are not jaundiced and may not seek medical advice.

The disease has a long incubation period of up to 6 weeks and is difficult to control. It is caused by a virus carried in the bowel so preventive measures are similar to those for dysentery and other bowel infections, i.e. good sanitation and strict attention to personal hygiene.

Most of our cases were in children, and parents and school teachers were visited and advised accordingly.

I am happy to record a nil return for poliomyelitis and diphtheria and only 1 for whooping cough.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION

You will find the statistics later in this report. The immunisation clinics have been carried on as usual. This is a routine unspectacular service but of the very greatest importance and has been the means, over the years, of saving countless numbers of children from death or severe crippling.

ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

This section which has been largely compiled by your Chief Public Health Inspector, includes information on water supplies, housing, sewers and sewerage refuse disposal, etc.

Mr. Wadhams, in his introductory remarks, has gone further, he has commented on the new Witham By-Pass road and on the London Overspill plan. Public Health is not just a matter of checking up on infectious disease or dealing with nuisances; it is concerned too with helping to create an environment where people can live healthy and happy lives.

The London Overspill plan is an exciting challenge and we in the Public Health Department are confident that we have an important part to play in its successful development.

The routine work of the Department has been so well covered by your Chief Public Health Inspector that I will content myself with a brief comment on housing. It is good to see that so many more houses for sale were built by Council and private enterprise, but a little disappointing to learn that no houses to rent were completed by the Council during the year. However, 24 old people's bungalows were under construction.

The Essex County Council started to build a most attractive 70 bedded hostel for old people in the centre of the town. It will be fully staffed with a warden and assistants and I am sure will be very popular with old persons from Witham and the surrounding district.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, SECTION 47.

It was not necessary to move anyone under the provision of this Act.

Once more I am happy to record my thanks to the Chairman and all members of the Public Health Committee for their help and interest, and to the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff for their loyal co-operation at all times.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

C. R. C. RAINSFORD.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Collingwood Road,
Witham.

November, 1964.

To the Chairman and Members of the Witham Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting, in conjunction with the Report of the Medical Officer of Health, details of my Department's work during 1963.

The year brought about three developments of note, each with its own impact on public health. They were a resurgence in house building, the commencement of the Witham A.12 By-Pass road, and the decision of the Council to agree an Agency scheme with the London County Council for overspill development of Witham town.

The completion of 149 new dwellings showed a welcome increase over the figures for recent years. Not since 1954 have more than 100 homes been completed in any calendar year. The Council's own contribution of 64 houses, built for sale to Council house tenants and applicants, has proved an effective supplement to Council house building. That it is only a supplement is shown by the continued demand for houses and bungalows, in spite of the local residence and work qualification being extended to 2 years.

With regard to existing dwellings, further work of clearance of unfit properties was put in hand, and a considerable amount of reconditioning carried out after informal notice. Improvement and modernisation by way of grant, however, continues to be disappointing, being in the main confined to owner occupiers.

The subject of housing leads naturally to overspill and town development generally. At the end of 1963, only principle and method had been agreed, but figures of 3,000 houses and 10,000 population over a period of 10 years were being discussed. Such a proposal, coupled with the extensive and increasing private development already in progress, will involve considerable extension of all the public services, and in this connection a scheme of extension to Witham sewage works is in course of preparation, together with improvements and supplementing of the present sewer system. Water supply is assured, by agreement with the South Essex Water Company, to whom the Council hope in due course to transfer their water undertaking.

The commencement of the long awaited Witham By-Pass, wide of the town on the South side, marks the boundary of the future development of Witham, and

will enable that development to proceed without being bisected, as the town has been in recent years, by an endless and impassable barrier of trunk road traffic imposing its attendant evils of noise, fumes, vibration, dust and not least frustration on the resident population.

The public cleansing service, like others, is meeting some difficulty in coping with increasing development and the bulky refuse which results from modern packaging and home heating methods. The weekly collection has been maintained however. The possibility of disposal by separation and composting with sewage sludge was again considered at length, but found still to be uneconomic for the present size of the district. Land about to be acquired by the Council in the area of the present tip and sewage works will enable controlled tipping to continue for some years to come.

Routine attention was maintained to food preparation and hygiene, and a considerable sampling programme fulfilled. No offences warranting prosecution were noted, though a number of warnings were issued after report to the Council's Public Health Committee. The general standard of food hygiene in the area is good.

Daily smoke and sulphur dioxide recording has been continued at one station in Witham, and for part of the year deposit gauge recording was resumed at two stations as a result of complaints from residents of dust emission from a local factory. This investigation was still in hand at the end of 1963. The general level of atmospheric pollution in the urban district is low by comparison with national averages. No smoke control areas have been declared, nor has the Council adopted the recommended byelaw requiring the installation of smokeless furnaces in all new houses.

Other routine work of the department, as detailed in the report, has been maintained. In particular, the special control procedure set up to govern trade effluent discharge to the Council's sewers continues to be effective in protecting the Council's services and recouping a large part of the cost of disposing of the wastes concerned.

I am indebted to the Clerk and other officers of the Council for their co-operation with my Department throughout the year, to my Deputy, and to my office and manual staff for their loyal and conscientious support. The year has not been without difficulty due to increasing pressure of work, staff shortages, sickness, etc., and though much remains to be done, satisfactory progress has been maintained.

The challenge of a rapidly developing district, if the future town is to become a healthy place in the fullest sense of the word, and not just

another place in which to exist, will call for the utmost foresight, effort and co-operation from all concerned in its development.

Lastly, I would like to thank the Council and the members of the Public Health Committee for the support and encouragement they have accorded me.

I have the honour to be,
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E.H.C. WADHAMS.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

STATISTICS AND LOCAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7,329 |
| Population (Registrar-General's estimate) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9,860 |
| Number of inhabited houses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3,176 |
| Rateable value | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £447,563 |
| Sum represented by a penny rate | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1,769 |

VITAL STATISTICS

LIVE BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 164 | 87 | 77 |
| Illegitimate | 8 | 5 | 3 |

Total live births - 172.

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | ... | 17.4 |
| Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births | ... | ... | ... | 4.6 |
| Birth rate corrected by comparability figure of 1.08... | ... | ... | ... | 18.8 |
| Birth rate for England and Wales per 1,000 population | ... | ... | ... | 18.2 |

STILL BIRTHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 1 | - | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

| | | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | 5.8 |
| Rate per 1,000 total births England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 17.3 |
| Total live and still births - 173 | | | | |

INFANT DEATHS

Deaths of infants under 1 year -

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|
| Legitimate | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Total infant deaths - 4

INFANT MORTALITY RATES

| | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births | ... | ... | ... | 23.3 |
| Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | 24.4 |
| Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births) | ... | ... | ... | 11.6 |
| Early Neo-natal mortality rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births) | ... | ... | ... | 11.6 |
| Perinatal mortality rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births) | ... | ... | ... | 17.3 |
| Infantile mortality for England and Wales per 1,000 live births | ... | ... | ... | 20.9 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY (including abortion)

| | | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Number of deaths | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| Rate per 1,000 total live and still births | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

DEATHS

| | <u>Total</u> | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> | |
|--|--------------|-------------|---------------|------|
| | 117 | 76 | 41 | |
| Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | ... | ... | ... | 11.9 |
| Death rate corrected by comparability figure of 0.95 | ... | ... | ... | 11.3 |
| Death rate per 1,000 population England and Wales | ... | ... | ... | 12.2 |

All the above rates are calculated on the estimated population given by the Registrar General.

DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES 1963.

The table below was compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General and the Classification is given under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

| | | | | | <u>Male</u> | <u>Female</u> |
|------------|---|-----|-----|-----|-------------|---------------|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 3. | Syphilitic disease | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 4. | Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 5. | Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 7. | Acute poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 8. | Measles | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | ... | ... | ... | 7 | - |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 7 |
| 15. | Leukaemia, aleukaemia | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 16. | Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina | ... | ... | ... | 18 | 4 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease | ... | ... | ... | 1 | - |
| 20. | Other heart disease | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 6 |
| 21. | Other circulatory disease | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| 22. | Influenza | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 23. | Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 2 |
| 24. | Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | 4 | 2 |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system | ... | ... | ... | 3 | 1 |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate | ... | ... | ... | 2 | - |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| 31. | Congenital malformations | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases | ... | ... | ... | 11 | 5 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents | ... | ... | ... | - | 1 |
| 34. | All other accidents | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 35. | Suicide | ... | ... | ... | 1 | 1 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war | ... | ... | ... | - | - |
| All Causes | | | | | <u>76</u> | <u>41</u> |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

Under the control of the Essex County Council:-

(i) Clinics were held at the following Centres during the year:-

WITHAM Essex County Health Services Clinic, Guithavon Street.

| | | | <u>Attendances</u> |
|----------------|---|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Child Welfare | 1st & 3rd Wednesdays | 2 p.m. | 1,160 |
| School Clinic | 1st & 3rd Thursdays | 9 a.m. | 635 |
| Dental | 2nd 4th & 5th Thursdays & Every Friday | 10 a.m. (By Appt.) | 669 |
| Speech Therapy | Every Friday | (By Appt.) | 122 |

(No Speech Therapist between 18.2.63 and 20.9.63)

SILVER END Garden Village Hall.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|
| Child Welfare | 1st Friday | 2 p.m. | 228 |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|

RIVENHALL Church Hall.

| | | | |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|
| Child Welfare | 3rd Monday | 2 p.m. | 175 |
|---------------|------------|--------|-----|

(ii) Home Help Service

This useful service is administered from the Area Health Office, 75 Springfield Road, Chelmsford.

(iii) Ambulance Service

The Essex County Council Ambulance Station is situated at Guithavon Street, Witham. There is one ambulance and one car for sitting cases. A full 24-hour cover is provided.

(iv) Laboratory Services

The Essex County Council provide a laboratory service which includes the bacteriological and chemical analysis of water samples, the chemical analysis of sewage effluents and the bacteriological examination of ice cream, and the examination of other foods for pathogenic organisms. These examinations are carried out by either the Counties Public Health Laboratories, Gray's Inn Road, London W.C.1., or the Public Health Laboratory, Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, New London Road, Chelmsford.

Under the control of the North-East Metropolitan Regional Hospital Board.

(i) Chest Clinics Held twice weekly at St. Michael's Hospital, Braintree.

(ii) Orthopaedic Clinics Orthopaedic patients who need special advice are referred to Black Notley Hospital where a clinic is held every 4th Tuesday morning.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

| DISEASE | Total Notified | Admitted to Hospital | Total Deaths |
|-----------------------------|----------------|----------------------|--------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | 12 | - | - |
| Measles | 156 | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | 3 | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | - | - |
| Totals | 183 | 3 | - |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED MONTH BY MONTH

| DISEASES | Total Notified | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | 12 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 11 |
| Measles | 156 | 38 | 5 | 6 | 1 | 7 | 67 | 31 | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | - | 1 | - | 4 | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | 1 | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 3 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Totals | 183 | 39 | 6 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 69 | 31 | 4 | 1 | 1 | - | 11 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED ACCORDING TO AGE

| DISEASE | At all ages | Under 1 year | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 - 9 | 10 - 14 | 15 - 19 | 20 - 34 | 35 - 44 | 45 - 64 | 65 & over | Age unknown |
|-----------------------------|-------------|--------------|----|----|----|----|-------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|-----------|-------------|
| Diphtheria | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Encephalitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Enteric Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Infective Hepatitis | 12 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 | 4 | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - |
| Measles | 156 | 3 | 11 | 13 | 23 | 14 | 79 | 8 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 4 |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Non-paralytic Poliomyelitis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever | 7 | - | - | 2 | 2 | - | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Pulmonary | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 2 | 3 | - | - |
| Tuberculosis, Non-pulmonary | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 183 | 3 | 12 | 15 | 25 | 14 | 85 | 13 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | - | 4 |

TUBERCULOSIS

The following Table gives particulars of the 6 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year.

| | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---------------|-----------|---|---------------|---|-----------|---|---------------|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-pulmonary | |
| | M | F | M | F | M | F | M | F |
| Under 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 year | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 2 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 3 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 4 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - 9 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 10 - 14 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - 19 years | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 20 - 34 years | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 35 - 44 years | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - 64 years | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 65 and over | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals | 3 | 3 | - | - | - | - | - | - |

Of these, 2 cases were re-notified on taking up residence in this District.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION.

| | By General Practitioners | By County Staff | Totals |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|
| <u>Primary Courses.</u> | | | |
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | 113 | 10 | 123 |
| Diphtheria and Tetanus | 4 | 7 | 11 |
| Diphtheria | 5 | 5 | 10 |
| Pertussis | 1 | - | 1 |
| Tetanus | - | 32 | 32 |
| Polio-myelitis | 126 | 315 | 441 |
| Smallpox | 23 | - | 23 |
| <u>Re-inforcing Doses.</u> | | | |
| Diphtheria, Pertussis and Tetanus | 4 | 3 | 7 |
| Diphtheria and Tetanus | - | 40 | 40 |
| Diphtheria | 4 | 62 | 66 |
| Pertussis | - | - | - |
| Tetanus | - | 4 | 4 |
| Polio-myelitis | 43 | 276 | 319 |
| Smallpox | 27 | - | 27 |

HOUSING.

1963 saw a welcome increase in the rate of house building, a total of 149 dwellings being erected, 85 by private developers and 64 by the local authority. The latter comprised the major part of the "Houses for Sale" scheme started by the Council in 1962. 10 houses remained to be completed on this estate at 31st December, while 24 old person's bungalows were also under construction at that date. In addition there were 151 dwellings under construction on private estates at the end of the year. At this time large scale private development was proceeding in three areas of the urban district, and proposals had been made for further extensions of planning permissions in respect of two of these.

The Witham Council's programme envisages a warden type flatlet home for elderly or partly incapacitated people, a further small mixed estate of Council houses and (tentatively) an extension of the very successful "Houses for Sale" scheme. It is also proposed to develop a small area of land as housing plots for sale to persons wishing to build their own homes.

The number of dwellings erected in the Urban District since 1945 is as follows:-

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| By Local Authority: | 784 (including 84 prefabricated bungalows and 67 Houses for Sale) |
| By Private Enterprise: | 444 |

The number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of 1963 was 176 compared with 171 at the end of 1962. The waiting list was composed of the following categories:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Ordinary List | 93 |
| Aged Persons | 51 |
| Single persons | 8 |
| Supplementary list | 1 |
| Exchange list | 3 |
| Engaged Couples list | 19 |
| Industrial workers list | 1 |

From these figures, it is obvious that the position is being held but not improved.

Pre-War Council Houses:

The completion of improvements to a further 52 houses in 1963 saw the end of the Council's programme of modernisation of all their pre-1930 Council houses, apart from some outstanding items of electrical rewiring.

Consideration of improvements to a further 186 houses built between 1930 and 1939 was deferred.

Housing and Public Health Acts.

Progress with regard to sub-standard private houses was continued and the following data shows the work undertaken during the year:-

- | | |
|--|--|
| (a) Clearance Orders: | 3 Orders submitted (16 dwellings) |
| | 1 Order confirmed (5 dwellings) |
| | 2 houses vacated. |
| | 2 houses demolished. |
| (b) Demolition Orders: | 1 order made. |
| | 1 order recommended. |
| (c) Closing Orders: | 1 order in respect of a basement flat. |
| (d) Voluntary undertakings by owners: | 1 house demolished. |

Confirmation of one Clearance Order made in respect of two cottages was withheld by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government pending the submission to the Council of a satisfactory reconditioning scheme.

The following was the state of condemned and closed properties at the end of the year:-

| | | |
|---|-------------------|-----|
| Houses in Clearance Areas awaiting demolition: | occupied | 4 |
| | vacant | 1 |
| Houses subject to Demolition Orders still occupied: | | 1 |
| Houses subject to Closing Orders: | | Nil |
| Parts of houses subject to Closing Orders: | Flats | 2 |
| | Underground rooms | 9 |
| Houses and flats subject to undertakings not to re-let: | | 5 |

In 1955 the Council submitted its Clearance Programme for the next five years to the Minister of Housing and Local Government. At that time a total of 57 houses was listed as unfit and suitable for clearance. Since then 53 properties have been demolished.

The position as reported to the Council in 1963 was as follows:-

| | | |
|----------|--|-----|
| Part I | <u>The total problem.</u> | |
| (i) | Estimated number of houses remaining unfit for habitation | 41 |
| (ii) | Period of years considered necessary to secure demolition of all houses in (i) | 3 |
| Part II | <u>Action already taken.</u> | |
| | Number of houses demolished or closed since 1/1/56 | 59 |
| Part III | <u>Further Proposals for action in next Three Years.</u> | |
| (i) | Number of houses to be demolished in Clearance Areas | 31 |
| (ii) | Number of houses to be demolished elsewhere | 6 |
| (iii) | Number of houses to be patched or retained for temporary accommodation | Nil |

Improvement Grants: Housing Acts 1949-59.

During the year a further 8 applications for grant aid were received and dealt with.

Details of applications for Discretionary Grant received during the past 7 years are as follows:-

| | <u>1957</u> | <u>1958</u> | <u>1959</u> | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 7 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Granted | 6 | 1 | 1 | 7 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Refused | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Withdrawn | 1 | - | - | - | 2 | - | - |
| Schemes completed | 4 | 8 | 1 | - | 5 | - | - |

There were 2 schemes outstanding at the end of 1963.

Details of applications received and dealt with under the House Purchase and Housing Act 1959 (Standard Grants) are as follows:-

| | <u>1960</u> | <u>1961</u> | <u>1962</u> | <u>1963</u> |
|-------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Submitted | 11 | 20 | 8 | 7 |
| Granted | 11 | 20 | 8 | 7 |
| Withdrawn | 1 | - | - | - |
| Schemes completed | 10 | 13 | 13 | 8 |

At the end of the year 8 schemes were outstanding.

The following table summarises action taken in connection with the inspection of dwellinghouses during the year 1963:-

Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year:-

| | | |
|-----|--|-----|
| (a) | Total number inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 187 |
| (b) | Number found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 9 |
| (c) | Number (exclusive of those referred to under sub-heading (b) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 41 |

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notice:

| | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Number of houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) | 38 |
| (b) | Number of other defective conditions remedied after informal action by Local Authority (or its Officers) ... | 52 |

Action under Statutory Powers - Housing Acts 1936-61:
Public Health Acts 1936-61.

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (a) | Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 4 |
| (b) | Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notice | 4 |

WATER SUPPLY.

The Council still operates its undertaking to supply the district with mains water, but proposals were put in hand during the year to transfer the undertaking to the South Essex Water Company, which for some years past has provided a large bulk of the supply required.

As in previous years, the South Essex supply from the Company's Abborton reservoir was used to supplement the Council's supply at Bradwell Springs. Frequent sampling throughout the year showed that the quality of these supplies was always satisfactory. In general, quantity and pressure were adequate, but in parts of Silver End the pressure was low at times. The installation of a booster pump to correct this has now been completed.

A summary of sample reports is given below:-

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| <u>Mains Water</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 3 | - | 3 |
| Bacteriological | 17 | - | 17 |
| <u>Other Supplies</u> | | | |
| Chemical | 1 | - | 1 |
| Bacteriological | 25 | 29 | 54 |

The unsatisfactory bacteriological reports were all in respect of two private supplies. The first, a shallow borehole supply used by a roadside cafe premises deteriorated following civil engineering works in the vicinity. At the end of the year the supply was returning to normal, but as a precautionary measure it was proposed to instal a chlorinating system. In the second case, a ram supply feeding several houses, improvement of the surroundings of the ram and spring led to improved bacterial quality.

Typical reports of the chemical water analyses of the mains supplies are given below:-

Bradwell Springs Supply (10.9.63.)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. It is of a high standard of organic quality and bacterial purity. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes."

Signed: Roy C. Hoather.

Mixed Public Supply (3.4.63.)

"This sample is practically clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from metals. The water is very hard in character but contains no excess of mineral or saline constituents in solution. Its organic quality and bacterial purity are of a high standard. These results indicate a pure and wholesome water suitable for drinking and domestic use."

Signed: Roy C. Hoather.

House Connections, etc.

| | |
|--|------|
| Number of separate dwellings in the Urban District | 3287 |
| Number of separate dwellings having internal piped mains supply | 3246 |
| Estimated population so served | 9760 |
| Number of separate dwellings connected during the year | 139 |
| Number of separate dwellings served by standpipe | 9 |
| Estimated population so served | 22 |
| Remaining houses served by shallow wells or springs | 28 |
| Estimated population so served | 91 |

The following extensions to the Council's mains were made during the year:-

| | |
|-----------|----------|
| 3" | 389 yds. |
| 4" | 348 yds. |
| 6" | Nil. |

All new mains are super-chlorinated by the Council's staff before being put into use.

Water Consumption and future requirements.

Total water supplied by:-

| | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| 1. Bradwell Springs: | |
| (a) To Silver End (estimated) | 36,231,000 gallons. |
| (b) To remainder of Urban District (estimated) .. | 82,779,000 gallons. |
| 2. South Essex Water Company | 98,412,500 gallons. |
| 3. ex Braintree R.D.C. main (Bradwell) | 71,000 gallons. |
| | <u>217,493,500 gallons.</u> |

Average consumption per head per day:

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Domestic demand | 37.69 gallons |
| Trade demand | 26.39 gallons |
| Total consumption per head per day | 64.08 gallons. |

Total consumption per head continues to rise. If this trend continues, the first twenty post-war years will show a per capita increase of about 100% over the 1945 demand.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

A further 134 properties were connected to the Council's sewers during the year. Drainage facilities in use in the Urban District at 31st December 1963 were as follows:-

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-------|
| Houses connected to main sewer systems | ... | ... | 3148 |
| Houses drained to septic tank systems, cesspools, etc. | ... | ... | 122 |
| Houses drained to ditches... | ... | ... | 12 |
| Houses without drainage | ... | ... | 5 |
| | | | <hr/> |
| | | | 3287 |

Of those properties not connected to sewer, there is gradual improvement in existing drainage arrangements brought about with grant and/or coincidental to improvement grant schemes.

Sewer Systems:

The following extensions to the Council's sewers were made during the year:-

Soil Sewers:

12" 780 yds.

Surface Water Sewers:

15" 216 yds.

18" 51 yds.

30" 123 yds.

With the exception of one small section, all the systems operate by gravitational flow to the respective sewage works, though most of the sewage has then to be pumped to the head of the treatment plant. The Witham and Silver End systems are both liable to surcharge at times of heavy rainfall. The Witham low level system, to which has been connected the greater part of the post-war estate development, suffers especially in this respect, and the Council's Consulting Engineers are preparing proposals for an improvement and/or relief scheme.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There are four major sewage disposal plants in the Urban District, three of which are owned by the Council. The three Urban District sewage works serve the communities of Witham, Silver End and Rivenhall. The fourth works, which originally served Rivenhall Aerodrome and latterly the camp for displaced persons, has now passed into private hands.

WITHAM SEWAGE WORKS.

As the overload on the plant, previously reported, continued to increase during the year, it was decided to increase the capacity of the effluent lagoon from 900,000 gallons to 1,400,000 gallons, and this was done in August. At the same time the flow pattern through the lagoon was improved, to reduce short circuiting and thus improve retention.

During the year and a half which the lagoon had operated prior to this extension, it had consistently improved the quality of the humus tank effluent to very high standard, except for two short periods. These occurred during the two spring seasons, when sudden excessive growth of diffuse green algae was responsible, on standard analytical procedures, for high figures for solids and oxygen demand. These periods were followed each time by heavy growths of crustacea in the lagoon, the presence of which soon cleared the algal growth and restored the analytical high quality of the effluents. Since enlargement, the lagoon has continued to give impressive results. It is no exaggeration to state that without it the sewage works could not have coped with development to date.

Reliance had again to be placed on the deodorizer system to offset the smell difficulty created by the other main overload problem - sludge drying and disposal. The deodorant effectively counteracted the offensive odours except on a few occasions when residences nearest to the works had reason to complain.

To deal with the overload and with anticipated rapid development, the Council's Consulting Engineers were instructed to prepare a two stage extension scheme for the sewage works, to cope with a future population of 17,500. It was hoped to submit the scheme for Ministry sanction in time for work on it to commence during the financial year 1964-65. The scheme would be coupled with a proposed new low level sewer system to serve the main future development area.

SILVER END SEWAGE WORKS.

This plant continued to function satisfactorily, though overloaded hydraulically, and lacking in adequate storm tankage and humus tank capacity. A certain amount of residential development is taking place in the drainage area but this, and increased industrial development, involving greater trade effluent discharge, will have to be curtailed until disposal capacity has been increased. The Consulting Engineers have been instructed to report on this matter, to enable the Council to decide whether to extend the existing plant or to divert the Silver End sewage to Witham to be dealt with by further extending the Witham works.

RIVENHALL SEWAGE WORKS.

This small works, designed for a flow of 18,000 gallons per day from an expected population of 600, is now operating to capacity. Its performance is generally satisfactory. No extensive future development is foreseen in the works drainage area.

RIVENHALL CAMP SEWAGE WORKS.

As in 1962, this plant was in use only for a few weeks during the year, when it operated to treat the seasonal effluent from a large pea vining factory in the vicinity.

SAMPLING OF SEWAGE EFFLUENT.

| | <u>Satisfactory</u> | <u>Unsatisfactory</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| Witham Sewage Works | 89 | 5 | 94 |
| Silver End Sewage Works | 7 | 4 | 11 |
| Rivenhall Sewage Works | <u>10</u> | <u>—</u> | <u>10</u> |
| | <u>106</u> | <u>9</u> | <u>115</u> |

The unsatisfactory Witham reports were all in respect of effluents temporarily containing excessive algal growth or crustacea. Those characteristics though producing bad analytical figures, are in themselves indicative of progressive purification towards river and stream desiderata. It is questionable whether the usual analytical methods and judgment should be applied to such effluents, which are regarded with equanimity by Rivers Boards, and which differ so radically in biological character from typical humus tank discharges.

The unsatisfactory Silver End reports refer to a period when the plant was temporarily and adversely affected by a trade discharge. Fortunately the filters, where the effect was most marked, recovered rapidly.

FARMLAND.

Cultivation of sewage works land was limited to 17 acres compared with $19\frac{1}{4}$ acres in 1962. The crops grown were winter wheat and barley. The resultant profit for the season was £25.12.9d. It is necessary to underline the valued relationship between farming operations and sewage disposal. Cultivation provides a means of disposal for ever increasing quantities of sewage sludge which is not acceptable to farmers.

The acreage available for cultivation has been reduced by the construction of the By-Pass road, and will be further reduced by the extension of the sewage works in due course, but it is hoped to replace this lost acreage by reclaiming land for arable crops by the refuse tipping programme on the adjacent marshland.

| <u>Season.</u> | <u>Crops</u> | <u>Profit</u> | <u>Loss</u> |
|----------------|--|---------------------|-----------------|
| 1947-48 | Wheat, potatoes | 63. 7.10. | |
| 1948-49 | Barley, potatoes | 294. 1. 4. | |
| 1949-50 | Wheat | 2.19. 0. | |
| 1950-51 | Clover, Mangold, Flax. | -. -. -. | 58. 7. |
| 1951-52 | Flax, Wheat. | 128.19. 3. | |
| 1952-53 | Wheat, Clover, Flax. | 335. 3. 0. | |
| 1953-54 | Wheat, Flax. | 212.19.10. | |
| 1954-55 | Wheat, Flax. | 229.14. 5. | |
| 1955-56 | Wheat, Runner Beans. | 279. 4. 4. | |
| 1956-57 | Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows. | -. -. -. | 193. 3. |
| 1957-58 | Wheat, Runner Beans, Sugar Beet, Marrows. | 104.15. 8. | |
| 1958-59 | Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Broad Beans, Lucerne. | 67.13. 9. | |
| 1959-60 | Wheat, Barley, Runner Beans, Wallflower, Lucerne. | -. -. -. | 11. 0. |
| 1960-61 | Wheat, Runner Beans. | -. -. -. | 45. 3. |
| 1961-62 | Wheat, Runner Beans. | 6. 5. 8. | |
| 1962-63 | Wheat, Barley. | 25.12. 9. | |
| | | <u>£1750.16.10.</u> | <u>£307.14.</u> |

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------|
| Net Profit | £1443. 2.10. |
| Net Annual Profit | £90. 3.11. |
| Annual rental prior to 1947. | £33.12. 6. |

DRAINAGE OF TRADE PREMISES.

Close control of industrial effluents discharged to sewer, commenced in 1949 was maintained during the year. Estimation of flow rates, separation of flows and sampling of trade wastes formed the pattern of investigations preparatory to drafting of agreements under the Public Health (Drainage of Trade Premises) Act, 1937 as extended by the Public Health Act, 1961. By the end of the year two new agreements had been adopted and one agreement was in process of negotiation. In the same period 24 samples of trade waste had been submitted for analysis.

The types of trade wastes being discharged to the local sewers are as follows:-

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Metal Processing: various: | 3 main discharges. |
| Dairy wastes: | 2 discharges. |
| Poultry Packing: | 1 discharge. |
| Maltings' Waste: | 1 discharge. |
| Fruit Pulping and concentrate: | 1 discharge. |

Income from trade waste charges for the financial years 1962/63 - £3,830.
1963/64 - £5,812

PUBLIC CLEANSING

Street sweeping, road gritting and other highway cleansing services are maintained respectively by the Essex County Council Highways Department and the Council's Works Department on the county and district roads.

The remaining services, refuse collection and disposal, salvago recovery, cesspool and gulley emptying and sewer flushing are administered by the Council's Public Health Department.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

Collection:

The collection of house refuse for the whole of the urban district was maintained during the year, providing a weekly collection from all parts of the area.

No decision was made concerning adoption of the paper sack system of refuse collection, but it is proposed to carry out a trial scheme in a selected area in due course, probably on one of the new private or proposed overspill estates.

Disposal:

Controlled tipping continued at the temporary site on land adjoining the sewage works. 15 acres of marshy farmland on the Southern boundary of the sewage works was acquired by the Council to meet future requirements for refuse and other waste disposal. The anticipated life of this land for controlled tipping is dependant upon the increase in population, but a period of 15 years would be a fair estimate of its tipping life. A one cubic yard overloading mechanical shovel/digger is used for refuse tip work.

During the year the Council's Public Health Committee again investigated the possibility of disposal of refuse and sewage sludge by composting. After much investigation and visits to authorities using this method, it was regretfully concluded that the economics of a satisfactory scheme could not be assured for a district of the present size of Witham, and the matter has once more been deferred indefinitely.

SALVAGE.

The recovery of waste materials from domestic and trade premises was continued, but the margin between salvage costs and income has narrowed to the point where collection of salvageable waste from trade premises is barely economical. However, in addition to visible profit, the collection of salvage from domestic premises keeps these bulky materials out of the refuse bins and this in turn cuts down disposal costs at the tip face.

Figures for the financial years 1962/63 and 1963/64 are set out in the following table:-

| | 1962-63 | | | 1963-64 | | |
|-------------------|---------|-------|------|---------|-----|-----|
| | Weight | | | Weight | | |
| | Tons | Cwts. | Qrs. | £ | s. | d. |
| Waste Paper | 210 | 10 | 0 | 1721. | 0. | 10. |
| Rags | 5 | 8 | 2½ | 81. | 8. | 2. |
| Sacking | | 13 | 2¼ | 4. | 1. | 3. |
| Scrap Iron | 12 | 6 | 0 | 34. | 0. | 0. |
| Non-ferrous Metal | | 18 | 0 | 38. | 10. | 2. |
| Jars and Bottles | | 1 | 1 | 1. | 0. | 0. |
| Miscellaneous | | | | 3. | 16. | 0. |
| TOTALS | 229 | 17 | 1¾ | 1883. | 16. | 5. |
| | | | | 229 | 6 | 2 |
| | | | | | | |
| | | | | 2006. | 2. | 7 |

During the year 1963-64 a bonus amounting to £383.1s.4d. was paid to the staff.

CESSPOOL, GULLEY EMPTYING AND SEWER FLUSHING.

The following work was performed by the Council's cesspool emptying vehicle during the year:-

| | <u>Cesspools</u> | <u>Loads</u> | <u>Gallons.</u> |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Domestic emptyings (free service) | 104 | 127 | 139,700 |
| Rechargeable work | 291 | 599 | 658,900 |
| Trade Waste removal | — | 1,864 | 2,050,400 |
| | <u>395</u> | <u>2,590</u> | <u>2,849,000</u> |

These figures show a decrease over 1961 of 20% for domestic work, but an increase of 24% in trade waste removal. This shows an overall increase of $7\frac{1}{2}\%$ on the demand for the vehicle. It is notable that collection and disposal of trade waste sludge has increased by 100% in the last two years.

The new tanker vehicle, ordered in 1962, was put into operation in mid-1963. By the end of the year however, it was becoming obvious that a second new vehicle would be required to cope with this ever increasing work.

In addition to the above removal work, the tanker vehicle carries out cleansing of all district road gullies three times annually and also performs periodic sewer flushing.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

A total of 2,286 visits and inspections were made during the year, as follows:-

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Housing Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 298 |
| Public Health Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 328 |
| Verminous Premises: Visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| Disinfestations | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Complaints | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |
| Slaughterhouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | - |
| Butchers' Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 |
| Fish Shops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Bakehouses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Restaurants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Ice-Cream Vendors | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Licensed Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Food Preparation Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Dairies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 17 |
| Poultry Packing Premises | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 56 |
| Sampling: Ice Cream | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Water | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 75 |
| Food | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 23 |
| Sewage Effluents and Trade Waste | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107 |
| Shops Acts | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Factories and Workshops | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 132 |
| Infectious Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Water Supplies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 118 |
| Streams and Watercourses | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 |
| Drains and Sewers: Inspected | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 197 |
| Tested | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |
| Cesspools, Septic Tanks, Pail Closets | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Refuse Tips | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 87 |
| Sewage Works | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 279 |
| Salvage | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 34 |
| Tents, Vans and Sheds | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Schools | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 |
| Atmospheric Pollution | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 164 |
| Council House Applicants | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 |

In addition, a total of 384 interviews were given to tenants, landlords, builders and other interested parties.

Nuisances etc. on Books, with Number of Notices Served.
Public Health Acts only.

| | |
|---|----|
| Number of Notices outstanding | 9 |
| Number of Intimation Notices served during the year | 51 |
| Number of Statutory Notices served during the year... .. | 2 |
| Number of Notices complied with during the year | 48 |
| Number of Notices outstanding on books, 31st December 1963 | 12 |

The following list classifies the nuisances and defects dealt with:-

| | |
|---|----|
| Dampness, rising and penetrative | 9 |
| Defective brickwork, rendering and pointing, etc. | 11 |
| Defective roofs, parapets, gutters, R.W.Ps, etc. | 13 |
| Defective ceilings and walls | 17 |
| Defective doors, windows and floors | 21 |
| Defective cooking ranges, firegrates and flues | 4 |
| Defective W.C. structures | 3 |
| Drainage defects | 37 |
| Inadequate means for disposal of surface water | 2 |
| Defective yard surface | 2 |
| Defective water service pipes, inadequate or polluted supplies | 5 |
| Absence/defective conditions of dustbins... .. | 33 |
| Offensive accumulations and conditions | 7 |
| Offensive smells/noises/fumes | 17 |
| Nuisance from keeping of animals, poultry or pigeons | 2 |
| Infestations: - Rats and mice | 76 |
| Vermin and insects | 25 |

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

During the year a total of 132 visits were paid to factories and workshops throughout the district, which figure does not include visits to Food Preparation Premises also classified as Factories, as these are dealt with under another heading. Conditions generally were found to be satisfactory. At the end of 1963 the number of outworkers on the register was 102, comprising:-

| | <u>Witham U.D.C.</u> | <u>Other Local Authorities.</u> |
|---------------------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| Glove Manufacturers | 16 | 80 |
| Seed Merchants | 6 | - |

Notification of outworkers employed in other districts are sent to the Local Authorities concerned.

Details of the inspections made during the year of premises in the Urban District under the Factories Acts are given in the Table below:-

FACTORIES ACTS 1937-1959.

1. INSPECTION for purpose of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

| | Number on Register | Inspections | Written Notices | Occupiers Prosecuted |
|--|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by local authorities | 2 | 4 | Nil | Nil |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by local authority | 57 | 85 | 4 | Nil |
| (iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers). | 8 | 11 | 3 | Nil |
| | 67 | 100 | 7 | Nil |

2. CASES in which DEFECTS were found:

| | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions instituted |
|--|---|----------|-------------------------------|--|
| | Found | Remedied | Referred to H.M. Inspector by | |
| Want of Cleanliness (S.1) | - | - | - | - |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | - | - | - | - |
| Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) | - | - | - | - |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | - | - | - | - |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | - | - | - | - |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7):- | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 3 | 3 | - | 1 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 4 | 4 | - | 2 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outworkers) | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 7 | 7 | - | 3 |

Laborious checking of complaints into noise, smell and dust alleged to come from an animal feeding stuffs factory was maintained. Those complaints which were confirmed could not be classified as Public Health nuisances but with the ready co-operation of the Company, conditions were considerably improved.

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the normal duties of the local authorities under the Shops Act 1950, the Council has accepted delegation from the Essex County Council (the major Shops Acts authority) of powers of enforcement of sub-sections 3, 4 and 5 of Section 38.

18 visits were paid to shops during the year, apart from purposes other than Shops Act administration. The following matters were dealt with:-

| | |
|--|---|
| Structural defects | 3 |
| Washing facilities | 3 |
| Sanitary accommodation | 2 |
| Drainage | 2 |
| Shops reconditioning and modernisation | 4 |
| Redecoration | 3 |
| New shops equipped to requirements | 3 |

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

The lease of the Council's caravan site was renewed in 1963, the Council having decided to keep the site in operation for a further period.

The site has space for 12 trailer caravans, and in addition to the proper basic amenities of hard standing, water supply, W.C. accommodation, drying ground and waste disposal facilities, electricity supply is now available to each occupier.

At December 1963 site licences were in force in respect of three caravans.

On two sites, members of the Showman's Guild stationed their caravans during the permitted winter months, and I am pleased to record the high standards observed by these persons.

INSECTS AND PESTS.

The following cases of infestation were dealt with:-

| | | | | | | |
|---------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| Wasps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 18 |
| Cluster Flies | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |

Cluster flies, which again gave rise to complaints at Rivenhall and in other parts of the district, were dealt with by the occupiers following advice on methods of eradication, after one major source had been discovered and eliminated.

RODENT CONTROL

Following the death of the Council's own part-time rodent operative, all disinfection work was taken on by the Braintree, Halstead and Witham Joint Rodent Control Committee, whose operatives already undertook the agricultural contract work in this urban district. It is expected that the Witham Urban District Council will become a fully participating member of the Joint Committee early in 1964.

The number of contracts with owners of Agricultural holdings for 1963 was 15. The free domestic treatment service remains unaltered.

Details of the year's work are as follows:-

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Inspections made | ... | ... | ... | ... | 77 |
| Treatment visits | ... | ... | ... | ... | 153 |
| Infestations found: Mice | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 |
| | Rats (Major) | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| | (Minor) | ... | ... | ... | 65 |
| Bodies recovered | ... | ... | ... | ... | 467 |
| Estimated killed | ... | ... | ... | ... | 730 |

No further experimental work was carried out with fluoracetate poisons during 1963.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Slaughterhouses:

There were no licensed slaughterhouses within the Urban District at 31st December 1963.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The local Council is the registering authority for milk distributors and premises (not being dairy farms) used as dairies.

Licensing of premises from which milk is produced, processed, bottled or sold is the responsibility of the Essex County Council.

The following registrations were in force at 31st December 1963:-

| | <u>Tuberculin Tested</u> | <u>Pasteurised</u> | <u>Sterilised.</u> |
|-------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Dairies (3) | 3 | 3 | 2 |
| Dealers (5) | 5 | 5 | 3 |

Samples of milk retailed in the district were reported by the laboratory to be satisfactory.

ICE CREAM.

The registration of manufacturers and vendors and their premises is carried out in the Urban District under the Essex County Council Act 1933, and supervision is exercised to ensure compliance with the Ice-Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations 1947-59. The number of registrations at 31st December 1963 was:-

| | |
|---------------------|-----|
| Manufacturers | Nil |
| Vendors only | 45 |
| Registered Premises | 45 |

In addition, vendors registered in other areas operate within the Urban District.

Ice-Cream is sampled periodically to ascertain its standard of bacterial purity. 29 such samples were taken during the year, and the results were as follows:-

| Bacteriologist's Description | Fruit Ices | Ministry of Health's Provisional Grading. | | | | Total |
|------------------------------|------------|---|----|-----|----|-------|
| | | I | II | III | IV | |
| Satisfactory | - | 15 | - | - | - | 15 |
| Passable | - | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Unsatisfactory | - | - | - | 8 | 4 | 12 |
| Totals | - | 15 | 2 | 8 | 4 | 29 |

Unsatisfactory reports are referred to the authority of the district of origin, and to the makers. In certain cases, improved hygiene on the part of local retailers has been required.

HYGIENE OF FOOD PREPARATION PREMISES.

The number of premises where food is prepared, stored or retailed, is as follows:-

| | |
|-----------------------------|----|
| Residential Hotels | 3 |
| Restaurants | 8 |
| Factory and School Canteens | 11 |
| Manufacturing Butchers | 3 |
| Bakehouses | 2 |
| Fried Fish Shops | 2 |
| Retail Butchers' Shops | 7 |
| Other Retail Food Shops | 55 |
| Retail Wet Fish Shops | 3 |
| Licensed Premises and Clubs | 21 |
| Fruit Packers | 1 |
| Fruit Juice Concentrates | 1 |
| Maltings, | 1 |
| Poultry Packing Stations | 1 |

In addition, a number of mobile food vans tour the area. There is no food market in Witham.

All are subject to inspection, 129 visits having been made during the year. The standard of hygiene is generally satisfactory; minor exceptions are at those premises which frequently change hands.

The table below shows defects and other conditions required to be remedied during the year:-

| | |
|--|----|
| Design and layout of new shops | 2 |
| Structural defects | 13 |
| Defective/inadequate sink drainage, hot water and washing facilities, or sanitary accommodation. | 7 |

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1955.

Sampling:

No formal samples were taken under Section 91 of the Food and Drugs Act 1955, but a number of informal samples have been submitted at the request of members of the public. The sampling officer of the Food and Drugs Authority (Essex County Council) has kindly supplied the following Table showing results of formal sampling in the Witham district during 1963.

| Commodity | Taken in Witham Urban District | Taken outside Urban District on premises of Wholesalers who supply shops within Witham Urban District. |
|--------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Baking Powder | 1 | - |
| Butter | 5 | 8 |
| Cream | 1 | 3 |
| Curry | 1 | - |
| Fish Cakes | 1 | - |
| Fish | 1 | - |
| Fish Paste | 1 | - |
| Plain Flour | 1 | 1 |
| Self Raising Flour | 2 | - |
| Ice Cream | 1 | - |
| Table Jelly | 2 | 1 |
| Margarine | 2 | 1 |
| Mayonnaise | - | 1 |
| Meat Paste | 1 | - |
| Mustard | 1 | - |
| Soft Drink | 1 | - |
| Suet | - | 1 |
| Tomato Ketchup | 1 | - |
| Preserves | 3 | 2 |
| Marmalade | 2 | 1 |
| Lemon Curd | 2 | 1 |
| Mincemeat | 1 | 1 |
| Evaporated Milk | 1 | - |
| Cream Soup | 5 | - |
| Pork Sausages | 2* | 3 |
| Buttered Sweets | - | 9* |
| Beverages | 1 | - |
| Condiments | 1 | - |
| Ground Almonds | - | 1 |
| Blancmange Powder | - | 1 |
| Cooked Meat | - | 5 |
| Confectionery | 1 | 4 |
| Lard | 1 | - |
| Sauce | 1 | - |
| Salmon Spread | 1 | - |
| Tinned Fish | 3 | - |
| Tomato Juice | 1 | - |
| Marzipan | - | 1 |
| Puddings | - | 3 |
| Tinned Meat | - | 1 |
| TOTALS | 49 | 49 |

*Pork Sausages 7% deficient in meat content. Caution issued.
Butter Drops 32% deficient in butter fat. Caution issued.
Butterscotch 15% deficient in butter fat. Caution issued.

The three unsatisfactory samples were caused by inadequate mixing of ingredients and immediate remedies were effected.

All other samples were satisfactory on analysis.

Milk Samples taken in Witham Urban District during 1963.

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| No. of samples taken: | 107 (including one school milk) |
| No. of samples satisfactory: | 106 |
| No. of samples unsatisfactory: | 1* |

*Sample contained 4% added water. Legal proceedings instituted resulting with seller being fined £8 and £15 costs.

Other Samples.

Two samples of Corned Beef and one of Cooked Ham were submitted for examination and found to be satisfactory.

Condemnation of Food (other than Meat).

Long standing contact with the local food establishments has resulted in regular notification to the Public Health Department of all unfit and suspected foods. A considerable quantity is voluntarily surrendered for condemnation in this manner. No unfit food was found during routine inspections. The Department takes possession of all food surrendered and arranges for its disposal at the refuse tip. 27 tons 1 cwt. 23 lbs. of various foods were dealt with in this way during 1963.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

At the beginning of the year the Council operated two sets of volumetric apparatus for determination of smoke and sulphur dioxide in the atmosphere. One volumetric apparatus was sited at the Health Department offices, the other $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles distant at Rivenhall. The instrument at the latter site was housed externally and the effects of the severe winter were such that the solution quickly became frozen and so prevented its operation. The Rivenhall site was abandoned from that time because the operator moved and also because during the six years of functioning a good picture of atmospheric conditions had been built up in this village, where further development was unlikely.

The abnormally cold early months of 1963 produced untypical results at Witham in terms of quantities of pollutants recorded although qualitatively the trends throughout the year corresponded well with those of previous years

in so far as peaks occurred during the winter months followed by a continuous decline from April to August, thereafter rising again as the autumn months approached. This incidence of pollutant matter obviously corresponds with the use of domestic fires and whilst the amounts recorded are relatively low, it is at the same time disappointing that the Council have not seen fit to sustain this happy position by declaring smoke control areas, at least in the areas of new estate development.

During the latter months of the year two deposit gauges were brought back into use to study atmospheric conditions in the vicinity of a factory.

STAFF.

Details of the Department's staff at 31st December 1963 were:-

Office: Chief Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Deputy Public Health Inspector, Meat and Foods Inspector.
Secretary
Part-time Shorthand/Typist.

Cleansing: 2 Chargehands.
2 Driver/Loaders.
4 Refuse Loaders.
1 Labourer (Part-time).

Sewage Disposal: 1 Works Manager.
2 Chargehands.
4 Sewage Disposal Labourers.
1 Digger/Loader Driver.
1 Cesspool/Gulley Emptyer Driver.

The average age of the permanent outside staff is 46 years.

